

Bedford Co., Va.
July 18, 1867.

grow to perfection only in deep shade.
The one, the *Asarum Virginicum*,
is scarcely less remarkable for its
singularly shaped & colored flowers
than for its large and cordate ever-
green leaves. These are elegantly
marked with white (lateral *Caladium*)
or with red in Winter, & when scat-
tered in tufts up the side of a hill,
with the flowers peeping from beneath,
they present no beautiful a sight
as a botanist can desire to see.

The other is still more beautiful,
the *Galax aphylla*. It sends up,
from its running rootstocks, masses
of long-petioled, round, and remark-
ably lustrous green leaves, & slender
spikes of pure white flowers. Like
the first, it is an evergreen, though
not mentioned as such in the Manual.

But I fear I am digressing from
business. You will receive with this,
if the mail does not serve me as it

Prof. Gray: -

Dear Sir - Your favor of
the 6th. inst. was duly recd., and I
am greatly obliged to you for deter-
mining the plants I sent. The grass
was quite immature when I wrote,
so that I probably did not describe
it very correctly, but as it matured
I saw plainly that it was a *Festuca*,
from the adhesion of the grain to
the palea, &c. I was surprised to find
the little plant (*Chenilla*) to be a
member of the Rose family. I could
not locate it, of course, not being
able to discover any stamens
whatever. I shall endeavor to obtain
spec. of *R. brevifolia* for you, but
it is extremely doubtful whether I
shall be able to do so. Possibly I
may find it here, and I shall
request a friend of mine at Alexia

to look for it there, but as he is not
a good botanist he will probably
mistake some other common
species for it. As to the *Carex intum-*
escens?, I think we shall have to
abandon that for the present.
I remember to have sent you what
I took to be early and late stages
of the same species. The early one
was certainly peculiar, but the
other, I think, was nothing but
the true *C. intumescens*. The plant
I mentioned to you as growing here
was identical with the latter form,
and I concluded, therefore, at the
time of its maturity, that it was
not worth collecting, and after
I read your letter it was of course
too late. — In the course of my
botanizing here, I have observed
noted down from time to time —
various points for remark or inqui-
ry concerning the plants I have

found here, and I will now mention
some of them. I would have sent
you the specimen of *Sarcothamnus*
before this, but concluded to
wait till I heard from you again,
as I might after that need to
send other spec. Would you like
more than one spec. of *Sarcotham-*
nus? It will give me great pleas-
ure to supply anything you wish
spec. of any plant I have. The
Boronia is much less ornamental in
fruit than in flower, the pods
(glaucous-black & white-fringed,)
being quite conspicuous & unsightly.
We have many very beautiful
plants here, the *Silene Virginica*,
Chamaelirium, *Viola pedata*, &c.,
being among the commonest. But
above ~~these~~ all others I value two
in particular, which would be
conspicuous ornaments in any con-
servatory; but, unfortunately, they

I found the *E. Virg.* at Alex'a, & it cannot be the other species, for the leaves are not ~~not~~ linear, certainly, but quite broad. Before the stems appeared I took it to be an *Agave*, but ~~the~~ from its general appearance, - but the leaves are not fleshy, only thick & waxy, and fringed with minute bristles. In this connection I would mention what appears to be an omission in the description of *E. Virginicum*, i. e., that it has root leaves different from those of the stem, - long-petioled, oblong lanceolate, obtuse, venose, or very slightly crenate. - I meant to have mentioned before that the common Sweet-Brier of this country seems to be the *R. micrantha*, it having all the characters given in the description of that sp. The *Ailanthus* seems to have escaped from cultivation here (I have not seen any cultivated tree of it, however) & is quite common along road-sides, &c. within a mile and a half of the village. It does not grow over 12 or 15 feet high, but I have seen it full of fruit at that height. The flowers are all perfect, with 10 stamens & 5 pistils in all I have examined, & odorless. - I found a tree of *Dracynus* *stuv.* with polygamous fls., the two sexes about equally divided in the panicles. I have observed several trees of *R. pubescens*, & find the No. of leaflets to be about equally 5 & 7, never have counted 9. There is a plant rather common here which I suppose to be a form of *Silphium trifoliatum*, but the leaves are all opposite, the lower often coarsely serrate, & thinner than in the common *S. trifol.* I think too that the cichoria are not much toothed. But I have not observed it closely yet, nor gathered spec. of it, nor of the *Eryngium*. Please tell me what you think of them. *Coryphaea amilifolia* is common here, & I see that the leaves are often all simple, sometimes merely lobed, very remarkable. Please excuse my lengthy letter, & write me soon. Truly yours - A. B. Lourdes.

did the last time, a small pkg. of specimens, including the *Draca* brachycaarpa, & *Galium* in fruit - large spec. of the latter. It seems to prefer the vicinity of roads. When among grass it trails, & sometimes attains a length of 18', & perhaps more sometimes; when it grows in open spots, it is erect, & from 1½' to 4' or 5' in height.

The flowers are minute and brownish cream-color; petals smooth, obtuse or barely acute, not bristletipped. In flower through June & July.

I have been especially interested in five varieties of *Senecio*, four of which are quite distinct from the ordinary swamp form, and from each other. As the distinction is in the root-leaves I have sent you one of each, but if you think any of them particularly noteworthy I can send you entire specimens.

If in writing you wish to distinguish any of them, I will recognize them by the terms *Spatulate*, *Oval*, *Oblong*, *Large lanceolate*, & *Small lanceolate*. All but the first (the yellowish leaf, without a petiole) are similar in height and size of corymb. That I found on a wooded hill-side - only one plant. It was only 9" high, too but two heads of flowers, & the stem leaves were very small - the lower scarcely $\frac{1}{2}$ " long. None of the five were woolly except at the base (at the time of flowering) except the one with the small, lanceolate leaves. This I found at Alex's, & it was somewhat woolly both on the stem & leaves. The most peculiar form, - the long, lanceolate leaf - I have found in two places here. It has remarkably long & thick (almost coriaceous) leaves, both to the root & stem, is a larger plant than the others & has a larger corymb.

The one with oblong thin leaves I gathered from a rock. It is but slightly different from the common form (which I have found here in our place). The leaves are oblong, oval, or round, & taper into the petiole. - I am now collecting the late Southern Grasses for the first time, & I am puzzled in determining some of them. I send small spec. of three. The coarsest one differs in several respects from *Gymnostichum* - as described, the *Paspalum* I cannot reconcile with *P. setaceum*, & I cannot decide whether the *Eragrostis* is *E. pilosa* or *E. Purshii*. I also send a leaf of a *Cirsium*, which I have found out of flower. I suppose it to be either *C. Virg.* or *C. pumilum*; if the latter - too far South. It had one large, but not bracted, head, & was 2°-3° high. - There is a kind of *Eragrostis* now in flower here which I am sure is not described in your Man'l.